



**Governor's STEM Advisory Council  
Regional STEM Network Hub  
Application**

**April 5, 2012**

**Northeast Region**

**Loras College**

**Name of proposed requesting entity (or entries as partners):**

Loras College

**Name and title of primary contact:**

Robert Keller, Ph.D. (*Associate Professor of Mathematics/Computer Science*)

**Primary contact address:**

1450 Alta Vista

**Primary contact city/state/zip:**

Dubuque IA 52001

**Primary contact office telephone:**

563-588-7015

**Primary contact email address:**

[robert.keller@loras.edu](mailto:robert.keller@loras.edu)

**Region:**

Northeast

**Proposed Location:**

The location of the Loras College STEM hub will be on campus in room 235 of the St. Joseph Hall of Science, a suite conveniently located on the western edge of the 60-acre campus, 10 blocks from the city's downtown. The Loras Hub will include two offices and a meeting room, along with full access to all campus resources, including meeting space in the modern Alumni Campus Center, technology, parking, dining, a post office, bookstore, and security.

**Identify Your Mission:**

The mission of Loras College, as a Catholic liberal arts college, is to create a community of active learners, reflective thinkers, ethical decision-makers, and responsible contributors in diverse professional, social, and religious roles. Being a STEM Network Hub is a good match for Loras College, as the mission of Loras is educating through community. By working creatively and collaboratively with a network, educating through community is precisely what STEM Hubs do. Loras has a long history of building successful partnerships toward reaching overarching goals. The Loras campus also believes in contributing to the greater good. By serving as a STEM Network Hub, Loras faculty, staff and students will play an active role in community outreach and assistance.

**Identify Support:**

Loras College, as a Network Hub site, will provide campus offices, centrally located in Eastern Iowa, office furniture, computer with network and email access, technology support services, accounting and administrative services, motor vehicle (including van) access, telephone service, other facilities as needed.

**Participating Organizations:**

Loras College envisions a Regional Advisory Council for this area that is inclusive of the many stakeholders.

Listed below are:

1. Organizations that have agreed to participate, noted with the name of the individual representative;
2. Organizations with which Loras has an existing partnership and
3. Proposed council members. In developing the list, Loras was mindful of including all of the suggestions provided on the Iowa Regional STEM Networks website with regard to make-up of the council.

**Participating Organizations:**

Keystone AEA- Area Education Agencies, Sue Runyon  
Loras College, Robert Keller, Ph.D.  
Wartburg College, Mariah Bergen  
University of Dubuque, Monica Meissen  
Clarke University, Judy Munshower  
Dubuque Community School District, Craig Beytien  
Carnegie Stout Public Library, Susan Henricks  
STEM teacher, Karla Digmann

**Organizations with whom Loras has Established Partnerships:**

Other AEAs  
Area non-profit learning centers  
National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium  
Dubuque Art Center/MATTER (Leggo engineering competition)  
E.B. Lyons/ Mines of Spain  
Effigy Mounds  
Northeast Iowa Community College  
Other community colleges  
East Iowa Intergovernmental Association  
Prosperity Eastern Iowa Development  
Greater Dubuque Development Corporation  
Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce  
County Extension Offices  
K-12 students/parents  
Holy Family Catholic Schools, other private schools  
Other school districts  
Businesses/Industries  
Upper Iowa University  
Luther College  
University of Northern Iowa  
City of Dubuque  
City Council  
Other libraries  
Area STEM teachers  
School boards  
Iowa Workforce Development Office

**Other Proposed Members**

Other city governments

Other chambers

The role of Loras College in creating, hosting and staffing the Advisory Council will include continuing to contact and recruit prospective members and providing them needed orientation information; coordinating schedules and meeting dates; reserving facilities and managing logistics; developing agendas and council resources; staffing and leading meetings; circulating minutes and maintaining ongoing communication among members; measuring outcomes against goals; reporting quarterly to the Governor's Advisory Council.

**Funding Assistance:**

Assistance in resource development to fund and sustain a Regional STEM Network Hub at Loras College include, but are not limited to, the campus funding one-half of the cost of the salary of a STEM Hub Regional Advocate, and assistance with grant writing and from a fully-staffed development office. Additional support to the Hub also will be provided by faculty within the Loras College Education Department, including the Curriculum Librarian; STEM faculty and facilities, including position oversight; a campus Events Coordinator; an employee of the Dubuque Solid Waste Management Agency also officed on campus; Loras' Sustainability Committee (the campus is Petal Certified); on-campus catering services; IT support; Human Resources, including assistance with the search for and hiring of the position; and access to the numerous partnerships Loras has previously established.

**Additional Information:**

Loras College is Iowa's oldest college, founded in 1839. The current co-educational enrollment of nearly 1,600 students, includes representatives from 19 states and 13 countries. Throughout its history, the focus of the academic programs has been on providing a Catholic liberal arts education in a traditional setting. During the last decade, Loras student profiles have continued to move upward, undergirded by strong increases in retention and graduation rates. A new curriculum and calendar have expanded opportunities on and off campus. A focus on experiential learning, service, and leadership has led to the College establishing study abroad programs and internships across the globe. By graduation, 70% of Loras students have taken part in a study away opportunity. Student coursework is supported by a campus that includes apartment-style housing, a new Athletic and Wellness Center, and the third largest private library collection in the state.

**Subject Matter Expertise:**

Loras College has a reputation for strength in the STEM disciplines. Year after year, Loras students are accepted into top medical schools and are selected for research internships at Research 1 laboratories. Specific expertise that would lend to hosting a STEM Hub include the nearly 12-year successful outreach provided by the College's Math Department (now Math and Science Education) in the form of ongoing, state-funded professional development for Northeast Iowa middle school teachers. In addition, the College was recently awarded an Iowa DOE grant to become a Learn N Serve Team Fitness regional training site. In 2006, the College also launched Loras for Literacy, funded through grants from Verizon and the U.S. Department of Education, this program provides reading intervention and tutoring, education to underserved families, and teacher (and pre-teacher) professional development .

**Additional Considerations:**

Increasingly Loras College has come to enjoy a growing list of regional and national accolades:

- The U.S. President’s Commission on Service recently recognized Loras for the fifth consecutive year (the third time with distinction) for outstanding service learning programs, and the College was named 12th in the nation for community service by Washington Monthly (annually, Loras students donate over 40,000 hours of service to local, regional, and national charities, and organizations, and the College is the national top fundraiser for its size for Children’s Miracle Network)
- The College is a member of the U.S. President’s Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge
- Loras’ affordability is underscored by continued inclusion in Barron’s Best Buys in Education, which recognizes only 240 colleges nationwide
- Loras is ranked 13th in U.S. News & World Report’s “Best Colleges 2011” among Midwest baccalaureate colleges